

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing container blanks ~~(2)~~ from a material web ~~(3)~~, comprising:

a plurality of tools ~~(5)~~ supported by a rotary tool holder ~~(4)~~, each tool comprises a base element which is fixedly mounted on the tool holder and an engaging element which is pivotable relative to the base element,

wherein base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder,

said rotary tool holder ~~which on rotation is~~ on rotation being arranged to move each tool ~~(5)~~ along

a working path ~~(WP)~~ along which each tool ~~(5)~~ is engageable with the material web ~~(3)~~ for joining of opposite wall portions of the material web ~~(3)~~ along connecting portions ~~(11)~~ defining said container blanks, and

a return path ~~(RP)~~ along which each tool ~~(5)~~ is disengageable from the material web ~~(3)~~,
each tool ~~(5)~~ being arranged to be moved together with the material web ~~(3)~~ when the tool ~~(5)~~ is moved along said working path ~~(WP)~~, and

said tool holder ~~(4)~~ acting as a deflecting means for the material web ~~(3)~~ when this moves together with the respective tools ~~(5)~~ along said working path ~~(WP)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool ~~(5)~~ is operable between a closed position and an open position, the tool ~~(5)~~ being movable to said closed position to provide said engagement with the material web ~~(3)~~.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, in which at least one of the base element ~~(6)~~ and the engaging element ~~(7)~~ of each tool ~~(5)~~ supports a rib ~~(12)~~, which is arranged to engage the material web ~~(3)~~ in the closed position of the tool ~~(5)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4, in which said rib ~~(12)~~ of each tool ~~(5)~~ has an extent that corresponds to the extent of the connecting portion ~~(11)~~ of a container blank ~~(2)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, in which said rib ~~(12)~~ is supported by an arrangement involving springs ~~(38)~~, which when moving the tool ~~(5)~~ to said closed position are arranged for a given compression.

7. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool ~~(5)~~ is arranged to provide said joining by heat sealing.

8. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control means ~~(18)~~ which is arranged to engage said tool ~~(5)~~ with, and disengage the same from, the material web ~~(3)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which the control means ~~(18)~~ comprises a link mechanism ~~(20)~~ for each of the tools ~~(5)~~ and a stationary cam structure ~~(19)~~, each tool ~~(5)~~ being connected to the cam structure ~~(19)~~ by said link mechanism ~~(20)~~ and the cam structure ~~(16)~~ being arranged, during rotation of the tool holder ~~(4)~~, to control each tool ~~(5)~~ to be closed and opened, respectively.

10. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which each link mechanism ~~(20)~~ comprises an articulated link arm ~~(25)~~ which is arranged in an over-centred position.

11. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 or 10 when referring back to claim 6, in which each link mechanism ~~(20)~~ comprises a roll ~~(23)~~ which is held in a cam groove ~~(24)~~ of the cam structure ~~(19)~~, a sensor being arranged in the cam groove ~~(24)~~ for sensing the force by which the roll ~~(23)~~ abuts against a bearing surface of the cam groove ~~(24)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder (4) is rotatably mounted on one side.

13. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed claim 1, further comprising a punching station (10), which is arranged downstream of the tool holder (4) and arranged to punch container blanks (5) along said connecting portions (11).

14. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 13, in which said punching station (10) is arranged for such punching that a succession of container blanks (2) are connected to each other to form a continuous web (17) of container blanks (2).

15. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder (4) in operation is arranged for continuous rotation.

16. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a registering mechanism (13) positioned upstream of the tool holder (4) and adapted to sense the tension in the material web (3) and to adjust said tension according to a predetermined value.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing container blanks (2) from a material web (3) by joining opposite wall portions of the material web (3) along connecting portions (11) defining said container blanks, comprising

deflecting said material web (3) over a tool holder (4),

rotating the tool holder (4) to move tools (5) supported by the same along a working path (WP), and

by continued rotation of the tool holder (4), moving the tools (5) along a return path (RP) to the beginning of said working path (WP),

each tool, for providing said joining, being engaged with the material web (5) by pivoting an engaging element towards a base element for clamping the material web therebetween, the

base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder, and being moved together with said material web (3) during the movement of the tool (5) along said working path-(WP).

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the material web (3) is folded to a web folded longitudinally in the form of a W.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which said tool holder (4) is rotated continuously to provide continuous production of container blanks (2).

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which the tool holder (4) is rotated in an indexing motion.